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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Cyrus Vance, Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslav talks, announces his stepping down as Co-Chairman of International Conference.

+ Examination of more than one million claims for compensation as result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to begin in September; nine new Commissioners appointed to recommend awards on claims.

+ Secretary-General welcomes participation of Germany in airdrop operation over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not in compliance with its obligations under Safeguards Agreement with International Atomic Energy Agency, according to IAEA's Board of Governors.

+ Special Representative to Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, meet today in Phnom Penh to discuss repatriation and reintegration of Cambodian returnees, as new incidents are reported.

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Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy and Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, announced today that he is stepping down as Co-Chairman of the Conference.

He told correspondents this afternoon that his time as Co-Chairman had been "long and rigorous" and that the mission to mediate a negotiated settlement between the three Yugoslav parties had been "the most difficult task" he ever performed.

According to a United Nations spokesman, it is now incumbent upon the Secretary-General to make an announcement for Mr. Vance's replacement.

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Nine new Commissioners have been appointed to recommend awards on the claims for compensation filed by more than one million foreign workers and others who had to leave Kuwait and Iraq because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Claims filed by individuals, whose family members had been killed, or who suffered serious injuries or losses up to $100,000, will also be examined and will undergo expeditious processing, says the Compensation Commission.

According to a communiqué issued today at Headquarters, the nine jurists and experts from Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Finland, Ghana, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Switzerland have been appointed by the Governing Council of the Compensation Commission, set up by the Security Council after the end of the Gulf war to process compensation claims. They will begin their work next September and are expected to issue their first recommendations before the end of this year.

Other panels of Commissioners will be appointed shortly to review claims for losses of individuals over $100,000 and the claims of corporations and Governments. The payment for compensation is to come out of the Fund established by the Security Council and financed on the basis of 30 per cent of Iraq's oil sale. Because of the embargo imposed on Iraq since the invasion and Iraq's refusal to export up to $1.6 billion worth of oil, as allowed by the Security Council, the Fund has so far received only frozen assets deposited abroad. It is still confronting difficulties because of the delay in getting the $21 million put at its disposal last December out of Iraqi frozen funds, the communiqué said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the par cipation of Germany in the airdrop operation over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Joe Sills, the Secretary-General's Spokeman, conveyed to correspondents today that Mr. Boutros-Ghali was welcoming Germany's relief effort, based on the principles that the distribution of humanitarian aid "is a non-political activity".

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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not in compliance with its obligations under the Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which entered into force on 10 April 1992, according to the IAEA's Boards of Governors.

In a resolution adopted in Vienna today, the IAEA said it had not been able to verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear material required to be safeguarded under the terms of the Agreement to nuclear weapons and other nuclear devices. The resolution was adopted at the conclusion of the IAEA's reviewing process of developments since its previous meeting on 25 February concerning inspections in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Under the resolution, Board members also called upon North Korea to "remedy forthwith its non-compliance, including by granting without further

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delay access to specific additional information and to two locations", as requested by IAEA Director General Hans Blix on 9 February.

The IAEA Board asked the Director General to continue his efforts and dialogue and to report on any significant developments, inter alia, to the Security Council.

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Yasushi Akashi, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, met today with Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in Phnom Penh, to discuss the success of the repatriation effort and the reintegration of the returnees in Cambodia. They also discussed the current migration of ethnic Vietnamese from the Tonle Sap.

In his daily press briefing today in Phnom Penh, the Spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Eric Falt, also announced that Ms. Ogata would hold a press conference on Saturday, 3 April, in the Cambodian capital.

The UNTAC spokesman also reported a number of incidents that had occurred in the last 24 hours, resulting in several casualties.